

2A. TOTAL MORTALITY

TOTAL DEATHS

During 1999, a total of 39,673 residents died, an increase of 11,835 or 42.5 percent from the 1989 figure of 27,838 (**Table 2A-1**). The number of deaths among Arizona male residents increased by 37.6 percent from 15,281 in 1989 to 21,020 in 1999. The 48.5 percent growth in the number of deaths among Arizona female residents, from 12,557 in 1989 to 18,653 in 1999, exceeded the percent increase among males. In 1999, females accounted for 47 out of every 100 deaths compared to approximately 45 per 100 in 1989. Less than eight hundred (792) Arizona residents died in 1999 outside the state (**Table 5E-3**) compared to 2,179 out-of-State residents who died in Arizona.

PLACE OF DEATH AND DECEDENT STATUS

Of the 39,673 deaths in 1999, 16,011 or 40.1 percent occurred in hospitals. Less than one in four deaths (23.8 percent) occurred in the place of residence (**Table 2A-4**). Inpatient deaths accounted for 84.7 percent of all hospital deaths. Among elderly 65 years or older and persons 15-54 years old, hospital deaths accounted for a minority of their total deaths. In contrast, nine in ten (91 percent) of all infant deaths occurred in hospitals.

REPORTS OF AUTOPSY

Autopsies were reported as performed on 4,325 decedents, or 10.9 percent of the deaths that occurred among Arizona residents in 1999. Among the leading causes of death, the highest

percentages of death autopsied were for *homicide* (97.2 percent), *suicide* (65.2 percent) and *unintentional injuries* (64.2 percent). The lowest percentages of autopsies were reported for *Alzheimer's disease* (0.4 percent), *nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis* (0.7 percent), *cancer* (1.4 percent) and *atherosclerosis* (2.2 percent).

MORTALITY RATES

The total age-adjusted mortality rate declined for the fifth consecutive year from 574.4 in 1994 to 507.1 in 1999 (**Table 2B-2**). The relative improvement in survival chances from 1994 to 1999 was 2.4 times as great for Arizona males (15.8 percent reduction in mortality rate) than for females (6.6 percent lower mortality rate). Moreover, the 1999 Arizona female mortality rate was greater than the rates seen in 1989-1992 (**Figure 2A-1, Table 2B-3**). This difference in amount of improvement narrowed the male to female excess in rate of death from 58.5 percent in 1989 to 44.1 percent in 1999.

From 1980 to 1999, Asians showed the largest decrease in total mortality rates at 34.9 percent, followed by Blacks at 27.7 percent, Hispanics at 18.6 percent, non-Hispanic whites at 13.5 percent and American Indians at 12.7 percent (**Figure 2A-2, Table 2B-5**). Asians had the best survival chances among the ethnic groups both in 1980 and the fact that they had the largest drop in mortality further distanced them from the other ethnic groups by 1999. In 1999, the total mortality rate for Asians was 53, 57, 64 and 72 percent below the total mortality rate of Hispanics, white non-Hispanics, Blacks and American Indians. The 1980 respective amount by which Asian total mortality rate was below the other groups were 41, 43, 60 and 62 percent.